

REMARKS

Prior to the present Amendment, claims 38-60 were pending in this application. The final Office Action rejected claims 38-40, 50, 53, 54 and 57-60, and objected to claims 41-49, 51, 52, 55 and 56 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants do not agree with the various rejections in the Office Action and reserve the right to file divisional and/or continuation applications to further prosecute the subject matter of the rejected claims. However, applicants desire early issue of a patent on this application, and accordingly have restricted the claims to subject matter which the Office Action indicates as allowable.

More specifically, claim 38 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 43, so that claim 38 is equivalent in scope in previous claim 43 and is allowable for the reasons related to claim 43 indicated in the Office Action. Claims 39 and 40, dependent on claim 38, are unchanged and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 38. Claims 41 and 42 have been rewritten in independent form and are allowable for the reasons indicated in the Office Action. Claim 43 has been cancelled as redundant over claim 38 as now amended. Claim 44 has been rewritten in independent form and is allowable for the reasons indicated in the Office Action. Claims 45-49, depending from claim 44, are unchanged.

Claim 50 is verbally unchanged. However, because claim 50 depends from the now-amended claim 38, the amendment of claim 38 in effect adds to claim 50 the subject matter of claim 51. Hence, claim 50 is now equivalent to claim 51 rewritten in independent form and is allowable for the reasons related to claim 51 indicated in the Office Action. Claim 51 has been cancelled as redundant over claim 50.

Claim 52 has in effect been rewritten in independent form. Claim 52, as originally presented was in effect directed to a method according to claim 50 in which the switching unit was of the type defined in claim 44. Accordingly, in the interests of claim brevity, claim 52 has been amended so its language exactly parallels that of claim 50 but

refers to claim 44 rather than claim 38. Thus, claim 52 is allowable for the reasons indicated in the Office Action.

Claim 53 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 55, so that claim 53 is equivalent in scope in previous claim 55 and is allowable for the reasons related to claim 55 indicated in the Office Action. Claim 54, dependent on claim 53, is unchanged and is allowable for the same reasons as claim 53. Claim 55 has been cancelled as redundant over claim 53 as now amended.

Finally, claim 56 has been rewritten in independent form and claims 57-60 cancelled.

Accordingly, all remaining claims are now allowable for the reasons indicated in the Office Action. No new matter is introduced by any of the foregoing amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is respectfully requested on the grounds that it will not require extensive review by the Examiner, being confined to rewriting of various claims into independent form, and thus rendering all claims allowable, thereby avoiding the need for an appeal of the final rejection.

Gates

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This application now contains 16 claims, including 6 independent claims, while applicants have previously paid fees for 37 claims, including 4 independent claims. Accordingly, the additional claim fees for two independent claims are being paid herewith. Also, since the normal period for responding to the Office Action expired August 19, 2006, a Petition for a two month extension of this period is filed herewith.

Respectfully submitted

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